



Hello,

✨ We are delighted to share with you our winners at this year's Inspirational Women in Law Awards! ✨

In their 11th year, the Next 100 Years annual awards celebrate women and men across the legal profession who have demonstrated exceptional talent, dedication, and commitment to inspiring positive change.

We were thrilled to celebrate their achievements in the presence of so many of you - our supporters, champions, awards judges, sponsors - past, present and future members of our profession. Thank you to the over 200+ of you who joined us on the night and celebrated with us.

Please join us in celebrating and congratulating them:

- Paralegal of the Year: Elinor Wynne 🏆
- In-House Lawyer of the Year (sponsored by Obelisk Support): Neha Dhaun 🏆
- Legal Academic of the Year: Professor Amel Alghrani 🏆
- Law Student of the Year (sponsored by BARBRI): Gift Olanipekun 🏆
- Barrister of the Year (sponsored by Clio): Emma Price 🏆
- Solicitor of the Year: Georgina Parkin 🏆
- Mentor of the Year (sponsored by Thrive Law): Dereen Kakabra 🏆
- Champion of the Year (sponsored by Serjeants' Inn Chambers): Sara Carnegie 🏆
- Rising Star of the Year: Rebecca Horley 🏆
- CILEX Lawyer of the Year (sponsored by CILEX): Alana Penkethman
- 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award: Dame Janet Smith DBE

This year's finalists and winners have set a high standard, showcasing the power of resilience, leadership, and dedication in their fields. Congratulations are also due to the hundreds of inspiring nominees this year, each of them showing just how much is being done in the legal profession today to change the future. All the nominees are making *significant contributions* to the legal profession, setting an example for aspiring lawyers and making an impact. Thank you.



This year's event, hosted by Clifford Chance, featured keynote speeches from industry-leading VIPs: **Lady Hale,** t*he first woman to be appointed President of the Supreme Court*; **Barbara Rich**, a *top-class former Court of Protection barrister;* **Sarah Rapson,** *Chief Executive of the Solicitors Regulation Authority*; and **Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb,** *the first Asian woman to serve as a High Court Judge in England and Wales. Finally, we heard a powerful speech on overcoming obstacles and self-doubt from our Lifetime Achievement Award* winner**, Dame Janet Smith.** The evening was hosted by our founder **Dana Denis-Smith OBE,** alongside **Yanthé Richardson**.

A big thank you to our ***panel of judges***, who have worked through dozens of inspiring entries to select the winners and also joined us last night to present some of this year's awards.



A massive thank you to our host firm ***Clifford Chance*** *a*nd their dedicated team, led by ***Maxine Purcell,*** for the wonderful reception and all the heavy lifting to make the event a success.

Thank you to ***Paul Meyler Photography*** and ***Reel Film*** for capturing this special night - we will share more in the coming days and weeks.

We look forward to our 12th edition in 2027 and to having you all join us!

Special Thanks to our Sponsors for making our awards ceremony so memorable.

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Best regards,

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